niques, induction of advanced technology and purchase of crude oil and petroleum products on the most favourable terms.

Visit by a Delegation from Qatar

1504. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Qatari delegation headed by Sheikh Rashid visited India recently and sought assistance of India in regard to the setting up of joint ventures such as fertilizer plants etc. for the utilisation of natural gas in Qatar;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed by the two countries; and

(c) if so, what are the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) A Qatari delegation led by Sheikh Rashid Oweida Al-Thani, Managing Director of Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) visited India during January 1987. During the discussions it was decided that a Joint Committee of experts from ONGC and QGPC could study the possibilities of cooperation to identify the long and short term areas of exploration and development of hydrocarbon resources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Bifurcation of O.N.G.C. into small units

1505. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per barrel exploration and operational cost that ONGC and Oil India Limited are incurring in various oil fields of the country;

(b) how does the oil exploration cost in India compare with other oil producing countries of the world especially the middle eastern countries where the exploration conditions are more comparable with India;

(c) what are the reasons for high cost of oil production of ONGC and Oil India Limited; and

(d) whether with a view to bring operational economy Government are considering to divide ONGC into smaller units which would be more manageable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration.

Land taken by I.O.C. on lease

1506. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation has obtained Railway land on long lease in Bidar District of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation had taken on lease a plot of land measuring 5500 sq. ft. at Bidar from the railways in March, 1964, at an annual rent of Rs. 1103/- for

an Aviation Fuelling Station and for kerosene storage and distribution. From 1-1-1982, the Railways have increased the rental for this plot of land of Rs. 10219/- per annum. Presently, this land is being used for the distribution of kerosene.

Smuggling of Coal

1507. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is large scale of coal smuggling to Pakistan from the biggest coal dump at Chandausi and also to Nepal and Bangladesh from an outlet in North Bihar and that illegal transaction in coal in Jharia with official connivance is estimated at Rs. 2 crore a day;

(b) if so, what percentage of coal dump at Chandausi and the percentage of coal production in Jharia mines (with value) is estimated to be smuggled into the neighbouring countries annually; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to identify the racket, its modus operandi, and the level of official connivance in black marketing and smuggling of coal to the neighbouring countries stating the results achieved and the measures taken by Government to plug the loopholes and to strengthen the machinery to curb the illegal activities in the coal fields in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Coal India Limited has no coal-dump at Chandausi though it has a stockyard of a capacity of 5,000 tonnes of coal per month at Varanasi from where coal is released against sponsorship to industries and/or licensed brick kilns. Reports received by the Government do not indicate that there is smuggling of coal in large quantities to Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. The allegation regarding illegal transaction in coal in Jharia, with official connivance, is unfounded.

(b) Does not arise, in view of what is stated at (a) above.

(c) The anti-smuggling dirve in general has been intensified in the border regions. The trends in smuggling and seizures made are kept under constant review by appropriate authorities of the Government for taking appropriate remedial measures.

Observation made by Chairman Coal India of Public Sector

1508. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Coal India has criticised the working of the public sector since there is no quick and prompt decision making and execution;

(b) whether there is any move to give more autonomy to the executives of the public sector to work independent of the Ministry and Bureaucracy; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) while retrospecting the performance of public sector enterprises on the occasion of the International Conference organised by SCOPE, Chairman, Coal India suggested few measures to improve the working of the public sector.

(b) and (c) Government is constantly endeavouring to ensure adequate autonomy to, and accountability of the PSUs to Government and Parliament as huge sums of public money are invested in them. Government has taken various steps from time to time in this regard. The process of review of autonomy, and of rules and procedures is a continuing one.

Power deficit in the country

1509. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the power deficit in 1985-86 and the estimated deficit in 1986-87 and 1987-88 in each State and Union Territory;